

# New Developments in Portable Backscatter Systems

Seth Van Liew July 15, 2014



## **AS&E** product lines



### **CARGO & VEHICLE INSPECTION**

#### Mobile



**ZBV** Line

### **Portal**



**Z** Portal



**Sentry Portal** 

### Gantry



**OmniView Gantry** 

#### PARCEL INSPECTION



#### PERSONNEL INSPECTION



#### **NETWORKING**



**ASE Connect** 

### **Product Areas & Offerings**



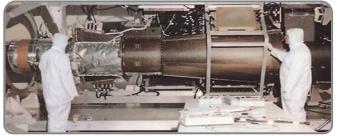






### AS&E at a glance





50+ Years of Experience to Draw From



**Unique and Flexible Solutions** 

Over 600 ZBVs sold worldwide (US state department has about 200)

World's #1 supplier in vehicle detection systems

2002 Nobel prize for extraterrestrial x-ray detection















































ORPORATE HEADQUARTERS / Billerica, MA BUSINESS / X-ray Screening & Inspection | FY13 Revenue / \$183M | STOCK / ASEI

**FOUNDED / 1958** 

**EMPLOYEES 362** 

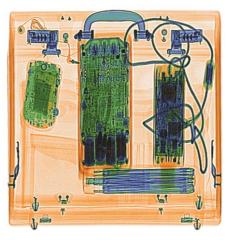
### **Transmission X-rays & Backscatter X-rays**

### **Core Technology**

### **TRANSMISSION**

X-rays detect by passing an X-ray beam through a target to a detector on the far side.

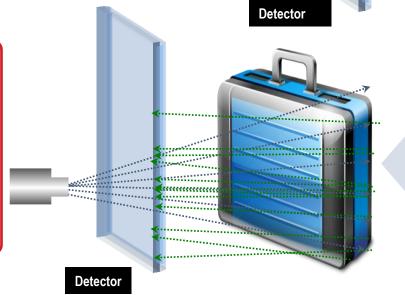


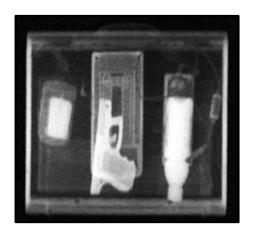


TRANSMISSION X-RAY

#### **BACKSCATTER**

X-rays detect by reflecting an X-ray beam from a target to a detector on the near side, creating an image that is easy to interpret and understand.





Z BACKSCATTER X-RAY OF THE SAME SUITCASE

### **Portable / Mobile Backscatter Products**









	ZBV	AXISS Family	Portable	Handheld
Energy	225 keV	140keV	70 keV	70 keV
Steel Penetration	8mm	3-5 mm	1-3 mm	none
Viewing Distance	4 m	3 m	1 m	15 cm

### **Increasing portability**

**Decreasing Size** 

**Decreasing Penetration** 

Increasing time to scan a large object

## MODULAR BACKSCATTER IMAGER



### **Motorized Cart Configuration**

Powered Cart: push cart, powered by battery

Powered lift raises imager up to 104" (264 cm) high

**Size (with imager): 30" (w) x 54" (l) x 52" (h) (lowest level)** 

76 cm (w) x 137 cm (l) x 132 cm (h)

Total weight (cart and imager): ~950 lbs (430 kg)

Fits through 32" door (81 cm)



At lowest lift position



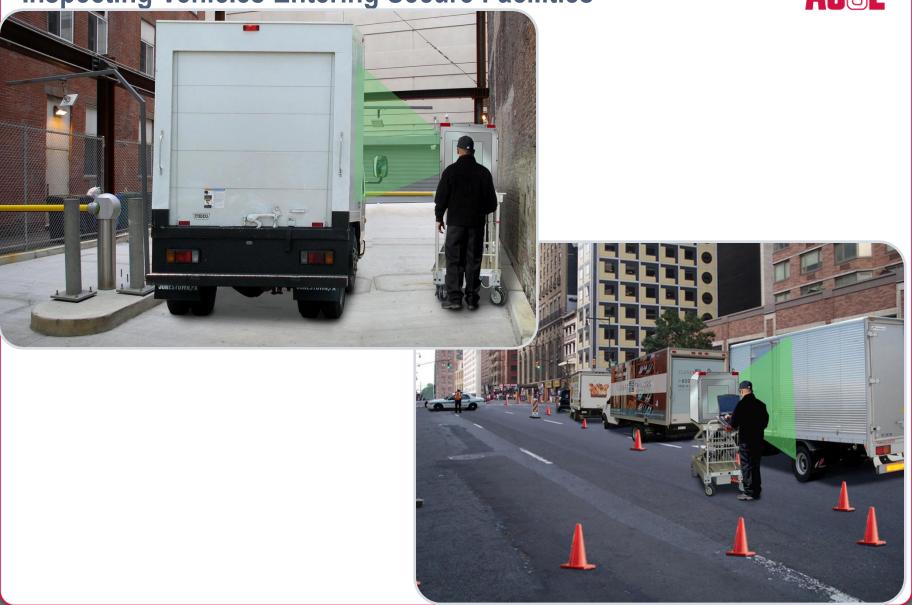




At highest lift position - 2.6m (104") high

## **Inspecting Vehicles Entering Secure Facilities**

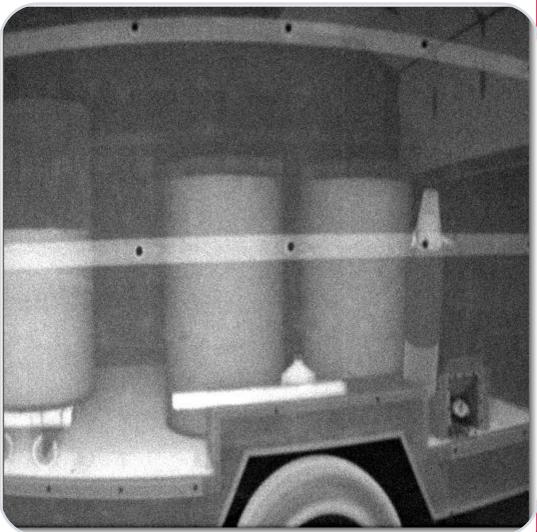




# **VBIED:** Rental Truck with 55 Gallon Drums of ANFO simulant **ASSE**







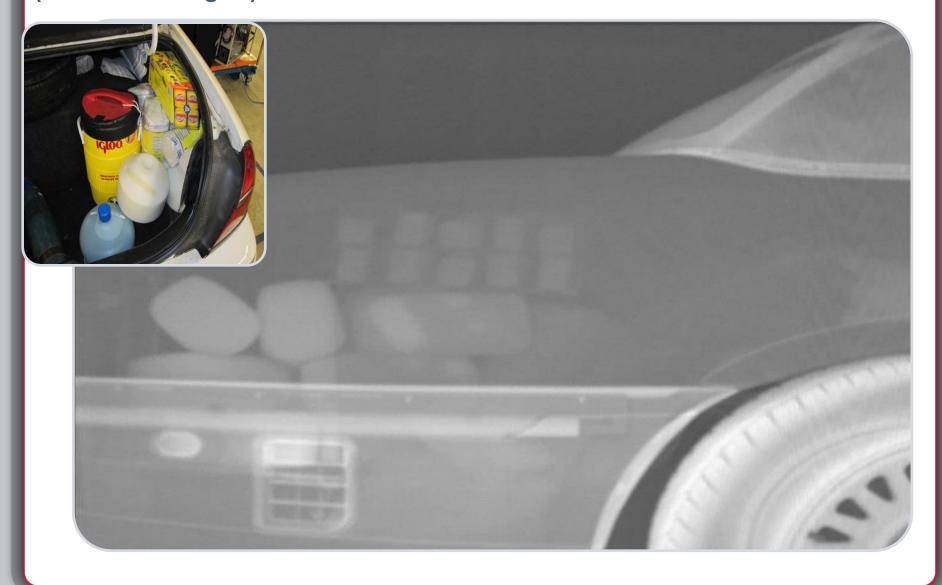
# **VBIED – 25 Lbs Threat Material in Passenger Door** (24" from Target )





# VBIED – 25 Lbs Threat Material in Trunk (Side View) (24" from Target)





## **AXISS FAMILY**



## **AXISS (Advanced X-ray imaging, Single Sided) Family**



### **Small Backscatter Imaging System**

Flexible solutions for the detection of explosives, drugs, currency and other organic threats and contraband

Depending on conveyance platform, fits through doors

Sees into objects that are inconvenient to open or difficult to x-ray with transmission systems like bicycles, panel trucks, trunks, planes, boxes, etc.

More portable than a ZBV



Standard Imaging Module Can be used in Multiple Configurations

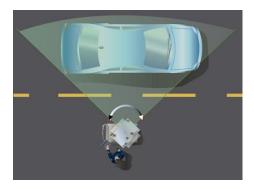
## **AXISS Systems Imaging Information**



X-ray source 140 keV, 600 W

Scan time: Capable of taking quick scan that is lower resolution (as quick as 15s) or a higher resolution scan (as long as 2 minutes)

System provides its own scan motion through Curvilinear Scanning: Turret rotates horizontally while scanning



Field of View: Vertical +/- 42°

Middle: Main viewing angle



Bottom:
Useful for looking at
objects close up (<3 feet
(1m)) that are on the
ground (e.g. suitcase)



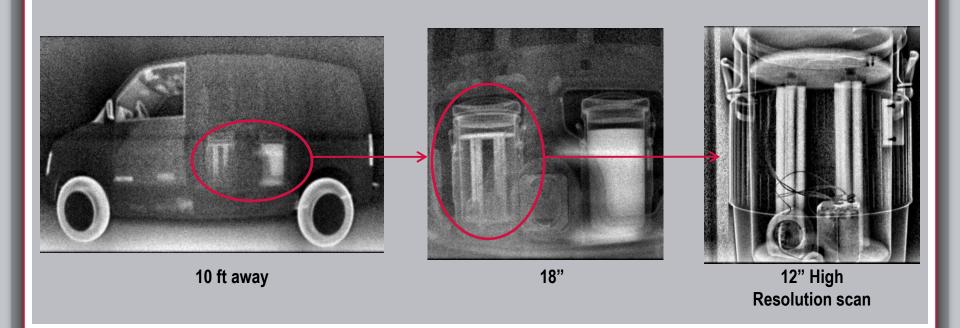
Top:
Useful for looking at
very tall objects
(e.g. truck trailer)



Maximum distance to object being scanned: 12 feet (3.6m)

# **AXISS Family Images:** Flexible Scanning



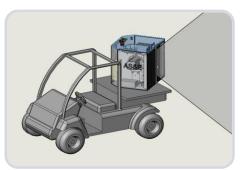


Potential progression of scanning a suspect vehicle: Whole view of vehicle, closer view of suspicious area, detailed view of suspicious item

## **AXISS Family**



## One Imager - Many Uses



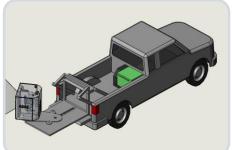












### **AXISS Family**



### Three programs / three prototypes

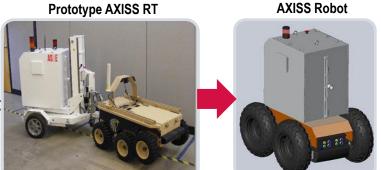
- Base Configuration
  - Mounted on a motorized handcart
  - Prototype developed under DHS S&T contract: Modular Bx
- Aviation Scanner
  - Mounted on a specialized platform for scanning general aviation aircraft
  - Backscatter imaging ideal for scanning planes for explosives or contraband such as narcotics
  - Prototype developed under DHS S&T contract: Aviation Scanner
- AXISS Robot:
  - Smaller than regular AXISS
  - Remote operation for EOD applications
  - Prototype developed under CTTSO/TSWG contract: AXISS



**Modular Backscatter** 



**Aviation Scanner** 



### **AXISS Robot Towed (RT) Configuration**

AS&E

Slightly different imager (smaller but 3x slower)

Weight of box: ~300 lbs (135 kg)

Scan time: varies 45s to 2 minutes

Size: 25" x 28" x 25" (64 cm x 71 cm x 64 cm)

**Designed for Bomb Squad use** 

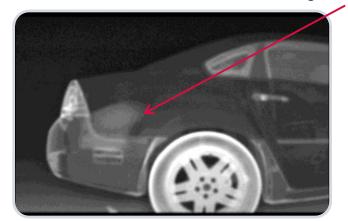
Analysis of potential VBIEDs

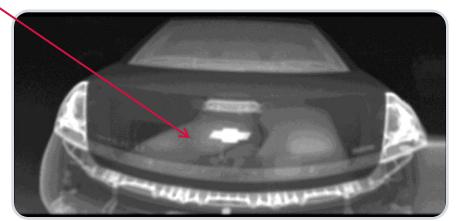
Towable by a bomb squad robot

Provides remote imaging capability



50 lb bags Fertilizer – ANFO Simulant





## **AVIATION SCANNER**



### **General Aviation Scanner**



Scans executive and private planes

Mounted on a rugged platform that includes:

- Omni-directional wheels that allow for precise control and maneuverability
- Motorized lift that can lift imager up to 17 ft (5.2m) high to see under and over wings and fuselage
- Full battery powered operation

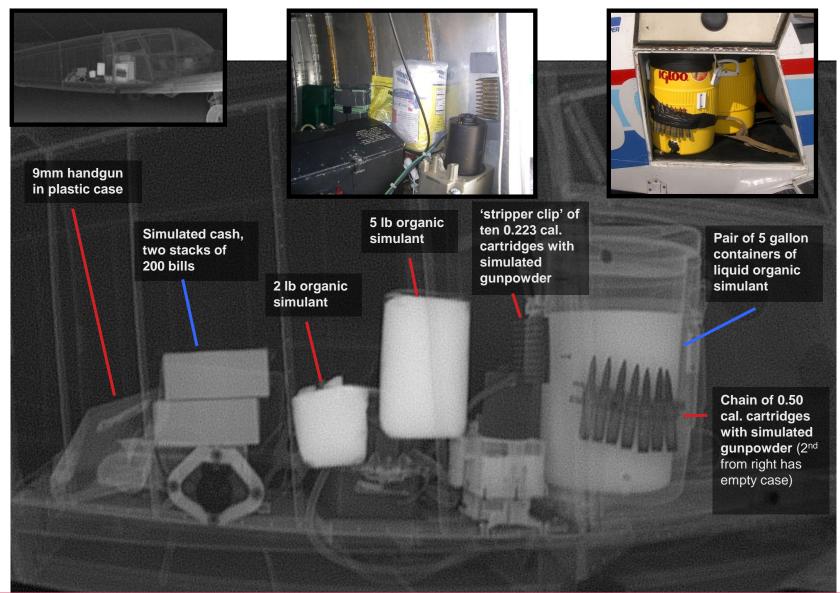






### **General Aviation Scanner: Contraband Inside Aircraft**





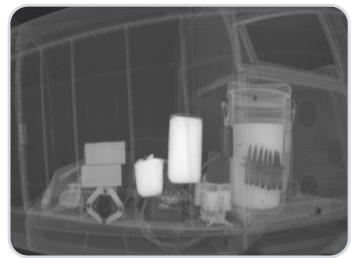
# General Aviation Scanner: Aircraft Scan at Various Distances ASEE



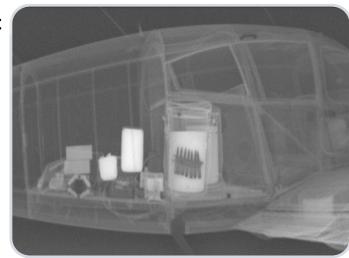




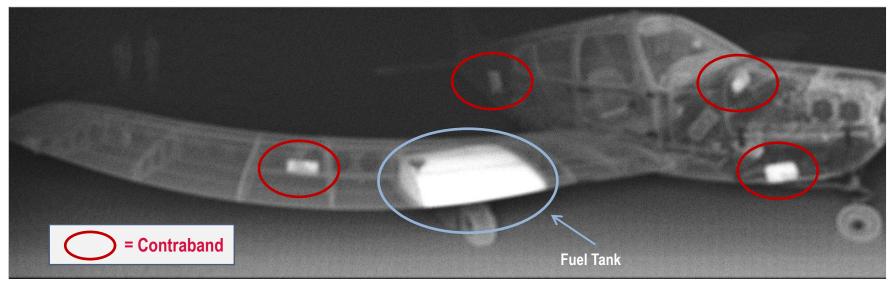
8 feet

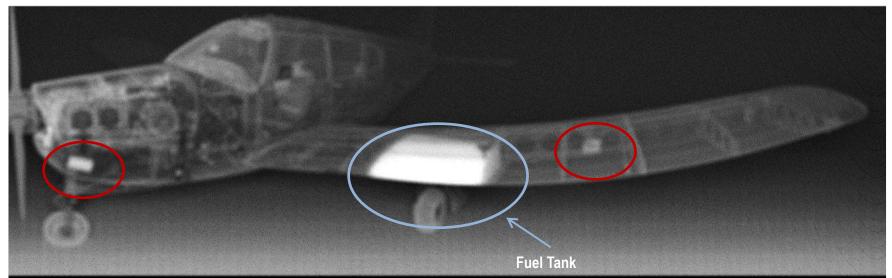


2 feet 4 feet



### **General Aviation Scanner: Small Plane with Contraband**





### **Aviation Scanner Changes Height and Viewing Angle**





Imager in lowered position with the X-ray source tilted upwards so that it looks into the bottom of the aircraft

Imager raised and with the X-ray source tilted downwards so that it looks into the upper section of the aircraft



## PORTABLE BACKSCATTER IMAGER



### **Portable Backscatter**



70 keV, 300 W system that is highly portable

Scans both vertically and horizontally and any angle in between

Lift assembly for viewing at different heights

No exclusion zone, operator safe

Standard wall power or battery operated

Can be mounted on any platform

Can penetrate drywall, fiberglass, aluminum, thin steel

Safe for scanning personnel and baggage

Weight: Imager 70 kg, Lift 60 kg

Detectors can be removed for repositioning



## **Imaging Head Two-Man Carry**





## **Scans Horizontally or Vertically**







## **Vehicle Scanning**

AS&E

270 degree panorama scan of internal rear passenger area

Imaging head fits completely inside vehicle

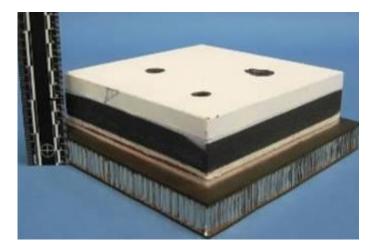
Hidden organics (drug and explosive simulants) identified

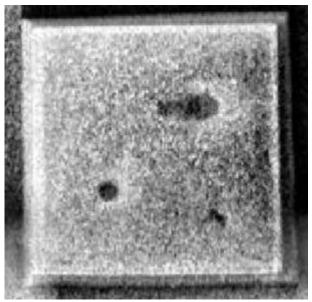


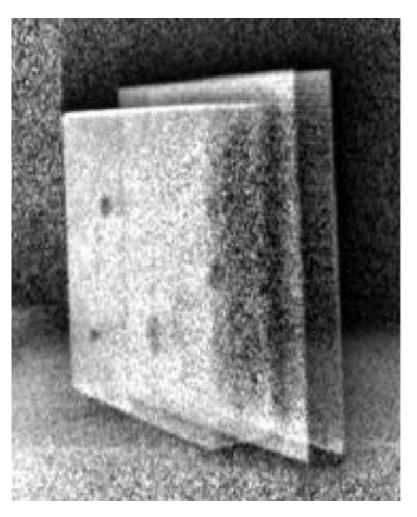


## **NASA** tiles









# MINI Z

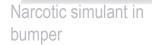


# Handheld device can see through non-metallic objects and produces images of potential threats and contraband

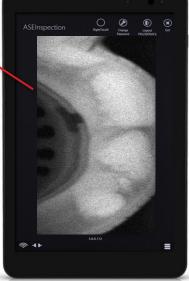












Narcotic simulant concealed in tire

### MINI Z Specs





#### **Scanner Dimensions**

Length: 11.5 in (29.2 cm) Width: 9.8 in (24.9 cm) Height: 7.6 in (19.3 cm) Weight: 9.2 lbs (4.2 kg)

Energy: 70 kV Power: 10 W

**Operating Time:** 4 hrs per battery charge (typical, based on 25% duty

cycle)

Scan Speed: 6 in (15 cm) per

second (typical)

**Operating Environment:** IP 54

Rated

**Operating Temperature:** 0° C to

45 C (32 F to 113 F)

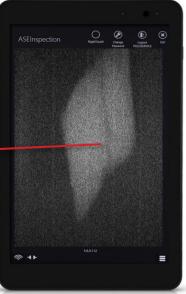
### **Imaging of objects**



# Can scan at any distance and any speed, allowing for increased detection capability or fast scan times

- Examination of walls, vehicle interiors, airplane interiors, pleasure boats, packages, space stations, spacecraft, etc.
- Closer scan distances increase image quality









## **Versatility**



### Image organic materials and aluminum

- The MINI Z produces a real-time image of the scan target, highlighting organic materials and thin aluminum
- Does not require physical set-up: enabling immediate operation
- Battery operated, wireless communications (Wi-Fi)
- Intuitive operation: as an operator scans a target, an image appears in real-time on the system's dedicated tablet.

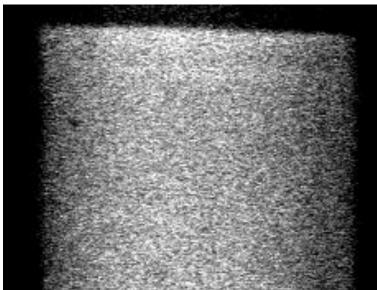


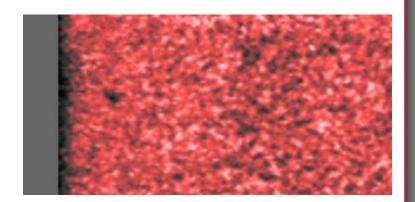


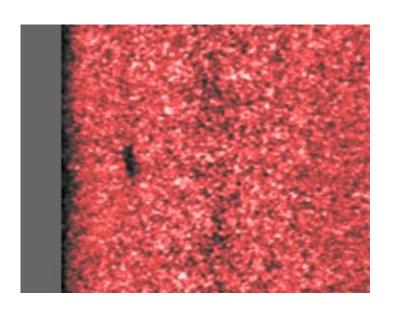
### NASA tiles – 3 mm hole









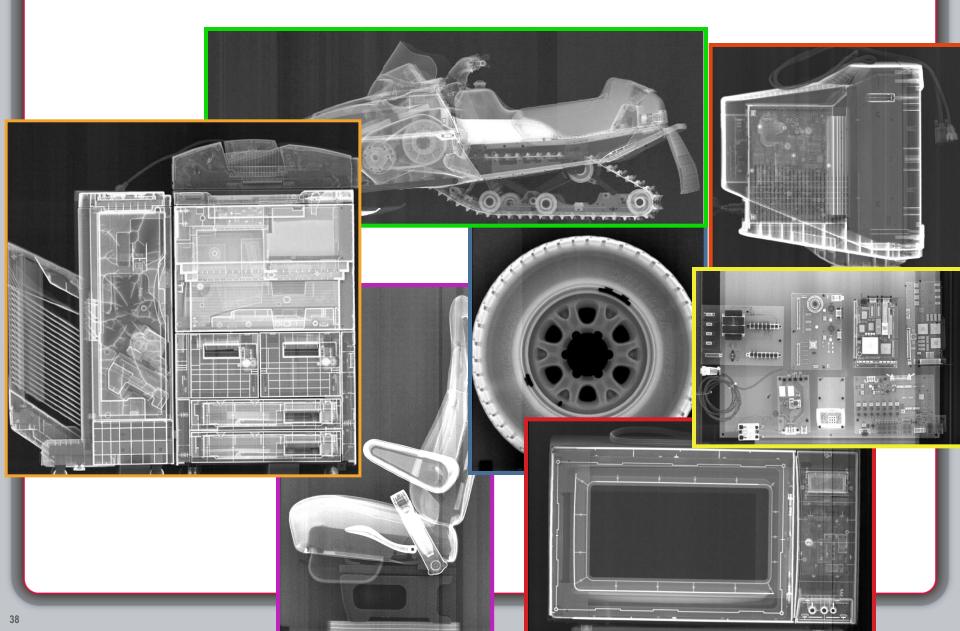


## **CAPABILITIES AND IMAGE ANALYSIS**



## High resolution backscatter imaging

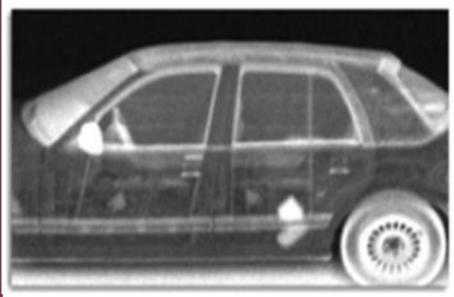




## **ZBV** vs. **AXISS** Family Imaging



### **AXISS** systems are smaller than ZBV, but slower





ZBV Distance: 5 ft (1.5 m) Time: 10 seconds

AXISS Family
Distance: 6ft (1.8 m)
Time: 60 seconds (Modular Backscatter)
Time: 180 s (AXISS RT)

## **Image Trade-offs**

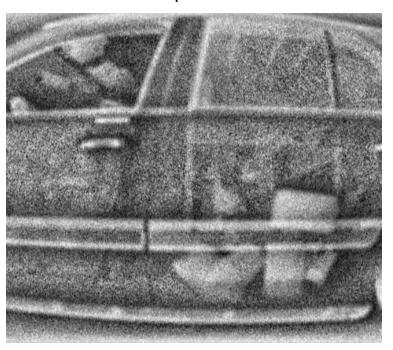


### Faster scan speed....

Faster but grainier

### Slower scan speed....

Slower but sharper



15s (Modular Bx configuration) 45s (AXISS RT configuration)



60s (Modulat Bx configuration) 180s (AXISS RT configuration)

### **Image Trade-offs**

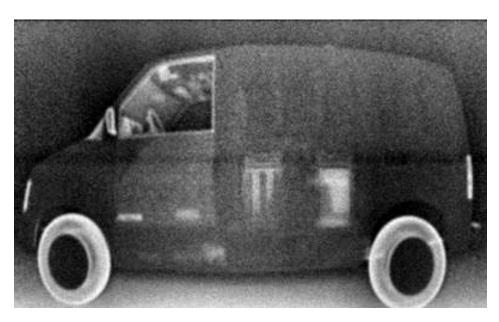


### Further away from object.....

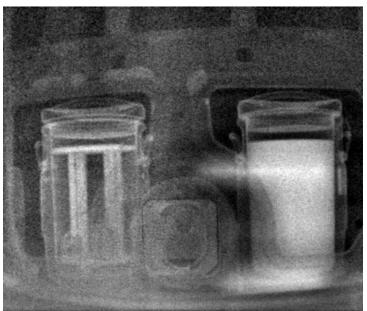
Wider field of view, decreased spatial resolution due to beam divergence

### Closer to object......

• Smaller field of view, better resolution



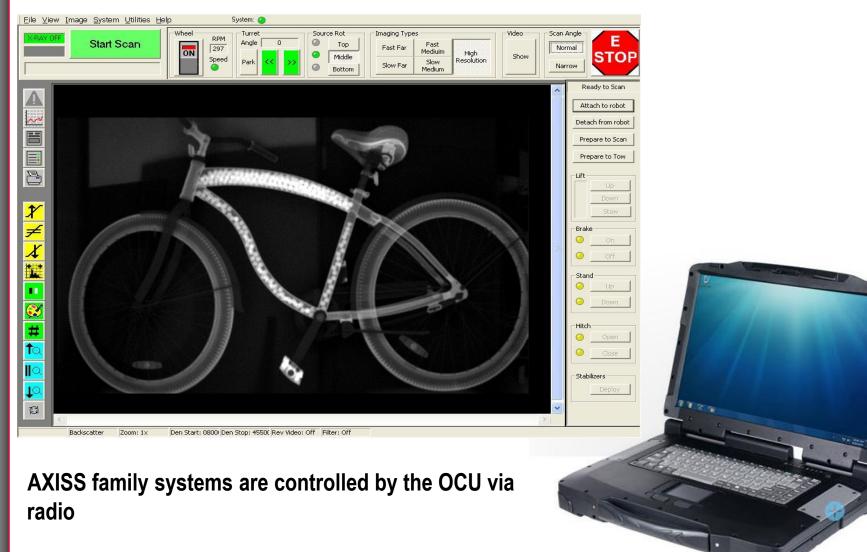
10 feet (3m)



18 inches (.5m)

## **GUI and Operator Control Unit (OCU)**





### **Conclusions**



MINI Z (handheld): 70 kV, 10 W, 8.5 lbs, unparalleled portability and versatility

Portable Backscatter: 70 kV, 70 kg unit, excellent portability with good imaging

**AXISS:** 140 kV, larger than PBx but with excellent imaging up close and penetration of steel

**Aviation Scanner:** AXISS mounted on a 360 degree platform with telescoping arm capable of imaging a plane or other object from variety of angles

**Modular Backscatter:** 140 kV, larger but can image at a distance through steel and is still portable

**Capabilities:** Backscatter imaging devices capable of fast scan times (car speeds) and high resolution (sub-mm), though usually not at the same time.

Pick your application and we likely have a solution!